

Gansler Calls for Increased Use of Performance-Based Payments



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY AND
LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-3010

NOV 13 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES

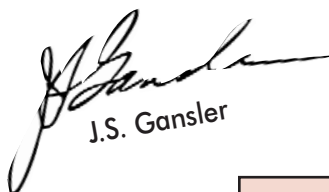
SUBJECT: Use of Performance-Based Payments (PBP)

The Department has had the authority to make performance-based payments to contractors under sole source fixed-price contracts for several years, but with the exception of their significant use with "other transactions," this financing technique has not been used widely. Recently, the Federal Acquisition Regulation was changed to remove the prohibition on using PBPs on research and development and competitively negotiated acquisitions, and to permit prime contractors with cost-type contracts to use PBPs on fixed-price subcontracts (FAC 97-16).

There are many significant advantages to be gained from the use of PBPs instead of cost-based progress payments. The Department must take maximum advantage of the benefits of performance-based payments as the preferred means of providing contract financing under fixed-price contracts by making this form of payment the primary and most commonly used form of contract financing. For fiscal year 2002, we must ensure PBP is the primary form of contract financing in at least 25 percent of contracts valued at \$2 million or more. By fiscal year 2005, this method of financing should be the most prevalent form used in fixed-price contracts, such as those for complex services or for production efforts.

In fiscal year 1999, there were 195 contract actions valued at \$5.6B that used this form of contract financing. By fiscal year 2005, this method of financing should be used in most contracts that provide financing. Exceptions to the use of this contract financing technique should only be agreed to by the contracting officer when supported by a sound business case justification. The attached summarizes PBP policy and lessons learned.

As with many of the acquisition reforms that we are pursuing, changing the predominant way we provide financing payments under fixed price contracts will require all of us to become more sophisticated customers. To that end, I have directed the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform to lead the development and distribution of a guidance document that will assist contracting officers and program managers in the selection and valuation of meaningful technical progress indicators to use in conjunction with performance-based financing payments. I look forward to your enthusiastic and effective implementation of the actions necessary to successfully transition our contract financing practices to this new paradigm.


J.S. Gansler

Attachment:
As stated



Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain. To download the attachment to Gansler's memorandum, go to the Defense Acquisition Reform Web site at www.acq.osd.mil/ar/.